WE CLAIM:

CLAIMS

1. A method for synchronizing data comprising:

providing a first and second computer system in a vehicle;

connecting the first and second computer systems via an interface;

maintaining a configuration indicator having bit values in a memory of the first computer system;

maintaining a configuration indicator having bit values in a memory of the second computer system;

transmitting the bit values corresponding to the configuration indicator from the first computer system to the second computer system via the interface;

comparing the bit values of the configuration indicator of the first computer system to the bit values of the configuration indicator of the second computer system; and

triggering a resultant action upon detection of a mismatch of said bit values of said configuration indicators.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising monitoring for synchronization initiation events.

3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the synchronization initiation events include startup of the vehicle, a startup of one of the first or the second computer systems, replacement of one of the first or the second computer systems, a failure event in one of the first or the second computer

systems, an initiation of a diagnostic routine in the vehicle, and an initiation of data synchronization by a user of the first or the second computer system.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the first computer system comprises a voice control system and the second system comprises a navigation system.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the configuration indicator of each computer system stores data related to the presence or absence of a nametag.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the configuration indicator of each computer system stores data related to one of a size, a time, a date stamp, and a unique identifier of a file.

7. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the second computer system transmitting the bit values corresponding to the configuration indicator from the second computer system to the first computer system.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein said comparing the bit values of the configuration indicator of the first computer system to the bit values of the configuration indicator of the second computer system occurs in the second computer system.

9. The method according to claim 1, wherein said comparing the bit values of said configuration indicator of the first computer system to the bit values of the configuration indicator of the second computer system occurs in both the first and the second computer systems.

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein said triggering a resultant action includes one of deleting all data corresponding to said nametag configuration indictors of the first and the second computer systems, deleting data corresponding to bits mismatched between said nametag configuration indicator of the first computer system and said nametag configuration indicator of the second computer system, and notifying a user of the first and second computer systems of a mismatch between said nametag configuration indicators of the first and second computer systems and prompting said user for further action.

11. The method according to claim 1, further comprising notifying the first computer system by the second computer system of the completion of the resultant action.

12. A method for synchronizing data between a first and second computer system in a vehicle having a multiple vehicle system architecture, the first and second computer systems being connected via an interface and each maintaining a configuration indicator having bit values in memory, comprising the steps of:

monitoring for synchronization initiation events;

upon detection of a synchronization initiation event, the first computer system transmitting the bit values corresponding to the configuration indicator to the second computer system via the interface;

comparing the bit values of the configuration indicator of the first computer system to the bit values of the configuration indicator of the second computer system; and

triggering the performance of a resultant action upon detection of a mismatch of the bit values of the configuration indicators.

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein the first computer system comprises a voice control system and the second computer system comprises a navigation system.

14. The method according to claim 12, wherein the configuration indicator of each of the systems stores data related to the presence or absence of a nametag.

15. The method according to claim 12, wherein the configuration indicator of each computer system stores data related to one of a size, a time, a date stamp, or a unique identifier of a file.

16. The method according to claim 12, wherein the synchronization initiation events include startup of said vehicle, startup of one of the first or the second computer systems, replacement of one of said first or the second computer systems, a failure event in one of the first or the second computer

systems, initiation of a diagnostic routine in said vehicle, and initiation of data synchronization by a user of the first and the second computer system.

17. The method for the synchronization of data between a first and second computer system in a multiple vehicle system architecture according to claim 12, further comprising transmitting the bit values corresponding to the configuration indicator from the second computer system to the first computer system.

18. The method according to claim 12, wherein said comparing the bit values of the configuration indicator of the first computer system to the bit values of the configuration indicator of the second computer system occurs in the second computer system.

19. The method according to claim 12, wherein said comparing the bit values of the configuration indicator of the first computer system to the bit values of the configuration indicator of the second computer system occurs in both the first and the second computer systems.

20. The method according to claim 12 wherein the resultant action is a member selected from the group consisting of deleting all data corresponding to said nametag configuration indicators of the first and the second computer systems, deleting data corresponding to bits mismatched between said nametag configuration indicator of the first computer system and said nametag configuration indicated of the second computer systems of

a mismatch between said nametag configuration indicators of the first and second computer systems and prompting said user for further action.

21. The method for the synchronization of data between a first and second computer system in a multiple vehicle system architecture according to claim 12 further comprising notifying the first computer system by the second computer system of the completion of the resultant action.